

1-4 AVIATION REGIMENT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)

# IN MEMORIAM...

**CW4 RICHARD “MATT” SALTER**

28 AUGUST 1961 — 26 DECEMBER 2005



**CW2 ISAIAS E. SANTOS**

26 FEBRUARY 1977 — 26 DECEMBER 2005



“OH, THAT I HAD WINGS LIKE A DOVE, FOR THEN I WOULD FLY AWAY,  
AND BE AT REST.” — PSALMS 55:6

## TRIBUTE TO CW4 MATT SALTER



### My Time with "Matt"

First let me start by saying that this is the hardest thing that I have had to do in my life, as a graduate of the Ranger course I must say that Ranger School hasn't got anything on this, and my life is forever changed.

I was blessed on that hot May Iraqi summer morning, a tall older gentleman walked up to me as I prepared to start my day as an Attack Aviator and introduced himself as Matt Salter. I was immediately

taken back because normally senior Warrants don't come and introduce themselves to junior Warrants; it is usually the other way around. I knew this man was different, special, I would have no idea.

After only a few short weeks Matt and I had fostered what I believed to be one of the most special relationships I had ever encountered in my Sixteen plus years in the military. Matt and I would do everything together, fly, eat P.T., etc. As a young Aviator and Dual Seat PIC, I would always seek out Matt's advice, not because he was my SIP, but because I always got it straight from Matt. What was the most surprising though was that Matt would come to me for advice as well.

I remember the day that changed my Aviation career, Matt came by my bunk one morning and said that he had a great idea; he asked me what I had planned to track once we returned back from Iraq. I said that I wasn't sure, but I had planned on trying to become an Instructor Pilot, what Matt said next completely took me off guard. "Jason, I knew you were going to be an Instructor Pilot from the day I met you". I was very touched and knew that from that day forward I would become IP, I had the man that I so admired telling me that I was IP material and that he believed in me.

When we returned, I did go to the Instructor Pilot course and graduate, but what people don't realize is that you learn to be an IP once you get back from the course. Well, I had the greatest teacher in Matt. He has taught me all that I know about being an IP, Matt I am forever grateful.

Richard Matthew Salter was my best friend, I am still coming to grips with this terrible loss. I expect to turn the

corner and see Matt, go to the chow hall and see Matt, walk out to the flight line and see Matt, you left us too soon brother. Matt, when I get home I will make it the first order of business to go and pay my respects properly, I will go by and give Janet a big



old Texas sized hug for you brother, I promise.

We are all blessed because of our time that we got to spend with Matt and are all better for having Matt in our lives. I can't help feeling selfish, wanting you back, but I know that you are in a better place now. Matt you always made me smile, even in the hardest times and I will miss that. You have forever changed my life, I am thankful and you will always have a special place in my family and in my heart. Richard Matthew Salter, a great man, husband, father, friend and brother, you will never be forgotten, I love you bro', you were my best friend,.....Rest In Peace.

CW2 Jason A. Sharpe







## TRIBUTE TO CW2 ISAIAS SANTOS



It is difficult for me to express the deep sorrow of the men and women of Charlie Company over the recent death of CW2 Isaías Santos. The premature death of a young person, especially a service member, is always terribly sad. In this instance, the loss is even more of a blow because our company is so small and so close-knit, and because Isaías was so popular.

He was very well liked by all of the soldiers and officers, including myself. Although Isaías had been in Charlie Company for less than a year, his exceptional aptitude as an aviator and his cheerful personality soon made him a favorite in the company.

Even though he came to us right out of flight school, CW2 Santos demonstrated exceptional competence for an aviator of his experience. He possessed an ability to learn quickly and apply this knowledge in very difficult and uncertain situations. This alone was enough to make him stand out among his peers and it brought great

credit upon himself and our organization.

Isaías was every inch a Soldier. He loved being in the Army and he loved bringing others into the Army. I believe that's why he was so successful as a recruiter. Unlike many soldiers, Isaías



never grumbled or complained. He was always cheerful and willing to help and always bringing smiles to

the faces of all those around him. At one time or another, Isaías had made every soldier and officer in the company laugh and smile. But when it came to carrying out a mission, Isaías was very serious. He performed all of his duties to the highest standard.

Through each step of his career, Isaías set the example for soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers, alike. It was my great pleasure to have CW2 Santos in my company. It was truly an honor and a privilege to command such a fine officer.

The world is a poorer place without Isaías and we will all miss him. His father, Jose

Santos, was understandably very proud of his son and he wanted to console us with the following message, "Do not feel sorrow for Isaías, because he was prepared for this and serving his country was his life."

Although Isaías is no longer part of our formation, he is still in our hearts. Each time we pay tribute to the Colors, we are reminded of the principles that shaped his life, "Duty – Honor - Country" and of the ultimate sacrifice that Isaías, and other heroes like him, have made.

Very Respectfully,  
CPT Mark A. Greene  
"Sidewinder 06"











SOMEDAY WE WILL KNOW, WHERE THE PILOTS GO,  
WHEN THEIR WORK ON EARTH IS THROUGH.  
WHERE THE AIR IS CLEAN, AND THE ENGINES GLEAM,  
AND THE SKIES ARE ALWAYS BLUE.  
THEY HAVE FLOWN ALONE, WITH THE ENGINE'S MOAN,  
AS THEY SWEAT THE GREAT BEYOND,  
AND THEY TAKE DELIGHT, AT THE AWESOME SIGHT  
OF THE WORLD SPREAD FAR AND YON.  
YET NOT ALONE, FOR ABOVE THE MOAN,  
WHEN THE EARTH IS OUT OF SIGHT,  
AS THEY MAKE THEIR STAND, HE TAKES THEIR HAND,  
AND GUIDES THEM THROUGH THE NIGHT.  
HOW NEAR TO GOD ARE THESE MEN OF SOD,  
WHO STEP NEAR DEATH'S LAST DOOR?  
OH, THESE MEN ARE REAL, NOT MADE OF STEEL,  
BUT HE KNOWS WHO GOES BEFORE,  
AND HOW THEY LIVE, AND LOVE, AND ARE BELOVED,  
BUT THEIR LOVE IS MOST FOR AIR.  
AND WITH DEATH ABOUT, THEY WILL STILL FLY OUT,  
AND LEAVE THEIR TROUBLES THERE.  
HE KNOWS THESE THINGS, OF MEN WITH WINGS,  
AND HE KNOWS THEY ARE SURELY TRUE.  
AND HE WILL GIVE A HAND, TO SUCH A MAN  
'CAUSE HE'S A PILOT TOO.

—UNKNOWN

On December 26, 2005, the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, lost two of its brothers when their AH-64D Longbow Apache went down several miles outside of Camp Taji, Iraq. The Soldiers, family, and friends of 1-4 Aviation Regiment will always remember

CW4 Richard Matthew Salter

and

CW2 Isaías Enrique Santos

The friendship and humor they brought to our lives each day will be missed greatly, and the example they set as Soldiers and human beings leaves a legacy each one of us can aspire to fulfill.

The Soldiers of 1-4 Aviation Regiment mourn the loss of these two fine aviators, and wish to extend their sympathies to their friends and families around the world.



THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL ARMY PUBLICATION. CONTENTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF, NOR ENDORSED BY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, OR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.